

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID/BG

SUBJECT: FOODGRAIN SITUATION

REF: (A) DACCA 3361; (B) BD 4065

IN ORDER TO FURTHER FACILITATE OUR ANALYSIS OF FOOD  
SITUATION IN BANGLADESH, REQUEST BEST ESTIMATES ON  
PRODUCTION LEVELS AND CLARIFICATION OF SOME DONOR  
FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE.

### 1. PRODUCTION

CONSIDERABLE DISCREPANCIES HAVE ARISEN REGARDING  
ESTIMATES OF FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION IN BANGLADESH.

A. WE ASSUMED THAT A VERY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE FOR THE  
1973/74 AMAN RICE HARVEST WAS 7.1 MILLION TONS. BDG,  
IN PL 480 JUSTIFICATION (BD-4065) USED ONLY 6.65 MILLION  
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TONS, WHICH SEEMS IMPROBABLY LOW.

B. ATTACHMENT TO BD 4058 STATES FLOODING REDUCED BORO CROP FROM 2.4 TO 1.8 MILLION TONS. LOSS OF 25 PERCENT OF CROP HARVESTED IN MARCH-MAY WOULD BE UNLIKELY EXCEPT IN CASE OF REALLY MAJOR DISASTER.

C. WE ARE USING ESTIMATE OF 2.65 MILLION TONS FOR AUS HARVEST, BEFORE MOST RECENT FLOODING IN SYLHET. OUR GUESS IS BASED UPON SUPPOSITION THAT RICE/JUTE PRICE RELATIONSHIP WOULD LEAD FARMERS TO PLANT CONSIDERABLY INCREASED RICE ACREAGE AT EXPENSE OF JUTE, BUT THAT FLOODS HAVE REDUCED THE CROP TO LEVEL BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION.

D. REQUEST PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE ON FY/75 AMAN AND WHETHER LATEST FLOODS (DACCA 3428) WILL REDUCE YIELDS.

2. IMPORTS: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION FOR DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN REFS A AND B, SINCE TONNAGE IS SUBSTANTIAL IN TIGHT SITUATION.

A. REF A REPORTS JULY AND AUGUST DELIVERIES TOTALLING OF 70,000 MT OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT ON 18 MONTH CREDIT, WHICH IS A DEFICIT OF 30,000 FROM REF (B)'S SCHEDULE AND TOTAL 300,000 COMMITMENT. WILL BALANCE ARRIVE LATER IN CY?

B. CANADIAN 26,737 MT SCHEDULED REF (B) NOT SHOWN IN REF (A). IT SEEMS AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER SHIPMENTS LISTED REF (B) COMBINED IN REF (A)'S 60,000 MT SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL. WILL REF(B)'S JULY SHIPMENT BE MADE UP?

C. REF (A) SHOWS 6,000 MT JAPANESE RICE ARRIVING IN AUGUST, REF (B) LISTS 17,288 MT SCHEDULED FOR JULY PLUS 4,000 KENNEDY ROUND.

D. REF (B) PAGE 6 OF ENCLOSURE INDICATES EEC PROVISION OF 195,000 MT WHILE MONTHLY ETA'S SHOW 115,000 MT (FIGURE CONFIRMED IN THIRD COUNTRY CLEARANCES). IS EEC INTENDING TO PROVIDE MORE, OR DOES THIS REPRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE FRENCH, FRG OR UK CONTRIBUTION?

E. REF A ACTUAL JUNE ARRIVALS READS 534,000 MT, WE ASSUME THIS TYPO FOR 134,000 MT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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